



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS, 24th INFANTRY DIVISION (MECH) and FORT RILEY
FORT RILEY, KANSAS 66442-5000

AFZN-GA-AS

1 October 2005

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Fort Riley Retiree Council

Call to Order: A meeting of the Fort Riley Retiree Council was called to order by the chairperson, BG (Ret) Dayle Williamson, USA, at 1020 hours on 1 October 2005.

Invocation: SSG (Ret) Carroll Everist, USA, offered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: BG Williamson led council members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Minutes: The minutes of the council's meeting on 16 July 2005 were approved. Many thanks to LTC (Ret) Jack Hoagland, USA, acting secretary.

Committee Reports:

Submission of Issues to the Chief of Staff of the Army Retiree Council: BG (Ret) Tom Kennedy, USA, Chairperson, reported that SGM (Ret) Frank Vovk, USA, has asked us to consider submitting the issue of raising the mileage reimbursement rate for VA from eleven cents a mile to the federal government reimbursement rate. We (the council) will work on developing this issue further. Anyone with input on this matter is asked to give it to the committee. LTC (Ret) Stanley Sutton, USA, replied that it might be clearer if the reimbursement matter is connected to the IRS deductible amount, approximately thirty to forty cents a mile.

Membership Committee: SGM (Ret) Joe Gilmore, USA, Chairperson, stated that LTC Sutton will remain with the council until June of 2006. There are no other vacancies at this time.

Post Exchange and Commissary: SFC (Ret) Robert Peterson, USA, Chairperson, reported that the PX had tried to restart its Advisory Council, however, it only lasted two meetings and has become inactive again. The PX has also agreed to donate raffle items for the Retiree Appreciation Day, RAD. The commissary manager will also try to get some items donated by vendors to give away. SFC (Ret) Gaston Catalan, USA, mentioned that he was trying to get a specific riverboat patch for a dying vet but was not sure how he could obtain it since the unit has deactivated. He stated he would ask the Clothing Sales manager for assistance. LTC Sutton noted that *Ranger Joe's* or other military sales off post might also be able to help, as well as searching on EBay.

Irwin Army Hospital and Pharmacy: LTC (Ret) Stanley Sutton, USA, Chairperson. ^{SSG} SFC Catalan remarked that because the end of year funding was depleted, the pharmacy could not completely fill prescriptions and that many had to be cut back. SSG Everist remarked that medications could also be obtained online through VA. COL (Ret) Verlyn Steinkruger, USA, asked that this type of information be available at the RAD. Kathy Cunningham-Tucker, Retirement Services Officer, stated that the health fair during the RAD would likely have all this information. SSG Everist will email this information to Kathy. LTC Sutton was concerned as to whether or not flu shots available at the RAD. BG Williamson noted that an avian flu vaccine item was attached to the military appropriation bill recently.

Legislative Committee: MAJ (Ret) Max McAllister, USA, and SSG (Ret) Carroll Everist, USA, Co-Chairpersons. BG Williamson brought several handouts pertaining to legislative items including information about veterans websites, burial of convicted felons at veterans cemeteries, appropriation bills for medical service, military construction, and VA hospital care.

Discussion:

RAD 2005 Update: Kathy reminded everyone that the Retiree Appreciation Day was just two weeks away! She provided a written detailed report of the event to include Health and County Fairs. The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce has agreed to provide the coffee and donuts again this year. The invocation will be conducted by Chaplain Eric Schwartz. Guest speakers include LTC David Batchelor, Commander, 1/41 IN who has recently returned from Iraq, and COL (Ret) George Webb, Director, Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs. This year's keynote speaker is COL Dana Pittard, Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver; he'll address Fort Riley's future expansion in troop strength and installation facilities. COL Marilyn Brooks, Commander, Irwin Army Community Hospital, is also slated to speak. Council members were urged to pay for their luncheon tickets if they hadn't already done so. Kathy reported that so far, 99 retirees and spouses had sent in registrations for the luncheon. She encouraged all council members to attend the RAD and help make this event a success. All "duty assignments" for the RAD were made. The Special Projects Committee has decided to give engraved marble pen sets to each guest speaker in appreciation for their support. Kathy noted that there isn't any funds allocated in the AG budget to support the cost. BG Kennedy remarked that anyone who would be willing to make a cash donation to help defray the cost of the speakers' gifts would be greatly appreciated; cost is approximately \$180.00. Lorraine Nobes, AG intern, has done a great job again this year gathering a lot of great door prizes. Division Reenlistment has also donated several items. One final note, Kathy reminded everyone to wear their council name badge and that we would be taking our annual Retiree Council photo immediately after the luncheon.

Christmas Social: LTC Hoagland, Party Organizer, has reserved the party room of the Little Apple Brewing Company located in the Manhattan Westloop Shopping Center for our Christmas event which will include spouses on December 3, 2005. Reservations were made for 1830, however, that can be adjusted. He informed us that the room holds 54 persons and encouraged maximum participation, otherwise, we risk having to share the area with other patrons. The restaurant needs at least \$900 in business to guarantee that we have the room to ourselves. Payment will be made individually. LTC Hoagland stated that if we limit our choices to three menu items it will speed up our service. He also noted that they offer a prime rib special on Saturdays that's really good. RSVP's should be made by Thanksgiving timeframe. He will send out a note to inform everyone, which will also include a general idea of prices, and try to have some more menus and information by the RAD. Ms. Cunningham-Tucker noted that this is a "social" event and strongly encouraged spouses to attend.

MAJ McAllister presented information from NAUS, including the proposed amendment making it illegal to desecrate the flag, assistance for the Reserves and National Guard, Survivor Benefit Plan and TRICARE eligibility.

RSO Remarks:

Ms. Cunningham-Tucker, RSO, reported that 3rd Brigade, 1st Armor Division, is starting to submit requests for retirement from theater. Currently, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division does not have a set deployment date. Soldiers assigned to 1BCT are in stop loss/stop move status and are having to request an exception to policy in order to retire. She stated that with the increase in troop strength expected at Fort Riley, she is hoping to get another clerk in the office.

Old Business: None

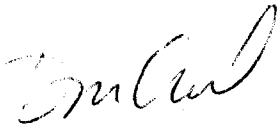
New Business: None

Announcements:

BG Kennedy announced the Kansas Prayer Breakfast for 2006 will be held March 3, and the speaker will be Dan T. Cathy, founder of Chick-Fil-A restaurants. He also noted that BG Williamson will be the honored guest speaker at the Kaw Valley MOAA meeting in Topeka, KS on 16 October 2005.

CSM (Ret) Leland Robinson, USA, stated that GEN Richard Myers retired from active duty yesterday, and will be coming back to Kansas. There is some discussion that he might work in some capacity at Kansas State University. The new Chair of the Joint Chiefs is a Marine, GEN Peter Pace. He is the first CJCS who brought a CSM along with him.

Adjournment: There being no further old or new business to discuss, BG Kennedy offered a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Motion was seconded and the council adjourned at 1113 hours.



DIANA M. CHAPEL
LTC (Ret), USA, Recorder



DAYLE E. WILLIAMSON
BG, (Ret), USA, Chairperson



KATHY CUNNINGHAM-TUCKER
DAC, Retirement Services Officer